

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 COME-00

EB-11 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /148 W
----- 130831

R 071124Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6174

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, PK

SUBJ: PROPOSED IRANIAN LEASE OF HELICOPTERS TO PAKISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 6462

1. EMBASSY PRESUMES SUBJECT HELICOPTERS INTENDED FOR USE AGAINST INSURGENTS IN BALUCHISTAN. LAST YEAR, PAKS BORROWED ABOUT TEN UNARMED HELICOPTERS FROM IRAN FOR USE THERE WHICH WERE RETURNED WHEN SITUATION IMPROVED LAST WINTER. INSURGENCY HEATING UP AGAIN AND PRIMIN BHUTTO LAST WEEK ISSUED REBELS ULTIMATUM TO ACCEPT AMNESTY OFFER BY OCTOBER 15 OR ARMY WILL BE SENT INTO HILLS AFTER THEM. PROPOSED OCTOBER 1 COMMENCEMENT DATE OF LEASE ARRANGEMENT CLOSELY COINCIDES WITH ULTIMATUM DATE.

2. ON FEBRUARY 15 PAK ARMY PRESENTED BRIEFING ON BALUCHISTAN EXPERIENCES AND PROBLEMS AT CENTO SEMINAR ON SUBVERSION AND INSURGENCY HELD IN RAWALPINDI. PAKS HEAVILY EMPHASIZED LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON TACTICAL AND LOGISTICAL MOBILITY BY PAUCITY OF HELICOPTERS. THEY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE FROM "PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES OF CENTO".

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3. PAKS ARE CURRENTLY FAMILIAR WITH AB-205 AIRCRAFT. GOP INVENTORY INCLUDES SIX UH-1H HELICOPTERS WHICH WERE PROVIDED BY SPECIAL USAID GRANT. GRANT TERMS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT "NORMAL MILITARY USE" OF MACHINES. HOWEVER, THEY ARE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY MILITARY. U.S. ARMY MOBILE TEAM RECENTLY COMPLETED TRAINING TWELVE PAK ARMY PILOTS (25 FLT. HRS) AND SIXTY MAINTENANCE TECHS ON JUEY. PAKS ALSO HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH ALOUETTE AND RUSSIAN MI-8.

4. DESPITE TRAINING MENTIONED PARA 3, ADDITIONAL 15-20 HELICOPTERS WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR TRAINING EFFORT FOR PAKS. MAINTENANCE AND PROVISIONS FOR SPARES WOULD ALSO BE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY AS OPERATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN WOULD REQUIRE SEPARATE MAINTENANCE BASE FAR FROM RAWALPINDI WHERE MAJORITY OF CRAFT NOW BASED.

5. RECOMMENDATION: EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS USG PROVIDE REPLACEMENT HELICOPTERS AND INDIRECTLY SUPPORT LEASE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GOP HAVE CAPABILITY QUELL INSURGENCY AND HELICOPTERS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN RUGGED TERRAIN OF BALUCHISTAN WHERE EVEN ROADS ARE FEW AND COMMONLY UNSURFACED; (B) ADDITIONAL PAK EXPERIENCE WITH THIS U.S. EQUIPMENT DESIRABLE AS WOULD ENHANCE CHANCES OF FUTURE U.S. SALES OF HELICOPTERS; AND (C) LEASE WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CEMENT TO PAK-IRANIAN RELATIONS. LUPPI

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